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DEC 13 1982

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

December 10, 1982

The Honorable Harry D. Early
Governor, Pueblo of Laguna
P. O. Box 194
Laguna, New Mexico 87026

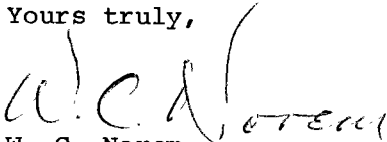
Dear Governor Early:

Your letter of December 3 to Mr. Marvin has been forwarded to this office for evaluation and response. We appreciate your setting forth in order of priority all of the points that are of concern to the Pueblo of Laguna. We are working on the requests to reply as expeditiously as possible; however, we would like to have clarification of the following points:

Paragraph 3, North Paguete Pit, refers to removing and replacing the high wall. In discussing this item at the Technical Committee meetings, the request was to backfill against the wall to a 3:1 slope, without changing the location of the crest. Our interpretation of the word "removing" would indicate that the Pueblo is now suggesting that blasting the high wall would be an acceptable method removal. If the request of the Pueblo of Laguna has changed, please advise.

Also in paragraph 3 there is a reference to backfilling to "pit plain level"; Paragraph 4, South Paguete high wall, requires filling the pit to "the greatest extent possible"; and Paragraph 13 states that the Pueblo will rely on Minerals Management Service's determination of what the level of backfill will be. To avoid possible differences in interpretation, we believe a further definition of these terms, and where each applies, is required.

Yours truly,


W. C. Norem
General Manager

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Xerox copy to Ron J. solimon
Roland E. Johnson